The CASE *of the Merchants Trading to* Ruſſia.

THE Czar of *Muſcovia* having, in the latter End of the Year 1713, order'd all the Hemp and other Produce of his Dominions to be carried to *Petersburgh* (in the *Baltick*) inſtead of *Archangel*, the uſual Place of Exportation:

There being a War between the Czar and the King of *Sweden*, the Merchants, for their Security, were not only provided with thoſe Paſſes, which according to Treaties ſtill in Force, and exiſting between the Crowns of *Great Britain* and *Sweden*, were mutually requir'd for the free and unmoleſted Commerce of the Subjects of each Kingdom, in Caſe either of them ſhould happen to be at War with a Foreign Power; but had over and above Paſſes from her late Majeſty, importing, That the Ships, and Effects, were her Subjects, and even ſome of the Paſſes mentioned, That the Returns were for the Service of her Majeſty's Navy: Which Paſſes were ſo far from being a Protection, that they were produced as a Proof, that the Ships and Effects belonged to the Subjects of *Great Britain*, in order to their ſpeedier Condemnation; though, to avoid the giving the leaſt Pretext to *Sweden*, for ſuch Uſage, extraordinary Directions were given by her Majeſty to the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms, not to permit any Contraband Goods to be entred; and all Ships ſubjected to a Viſitation on that Account, and proper Certificates were accordingly given before ſuch Paſſes could be obtained: Nor has any Contraband Goods been ever found aboard any of their Ships.

That, in the Year 1714, a Convoy was ſent to protect their Trade, yet by unhappy Delays arrived too late in the *Sound*, that they could not proceed to their lading Ports in the *Baltick*, but returned empty, not only to the exceeding Loſs of the Merchants and Owners of the Ships, but to the Endangering of the Kingdom; for by this violent Obſtruction to the Trade, there was not Naval Stores left in *England* to fit out half the Royal Navy.

Though, ſince his Majeſty's happy Acceſſion to the Crown, Convoys have been granted, yet thoſe Ships, which have by Misfortune been ſeparated, or otherwiſe met with by the *Swedes*, even ſuch as were bound only to Neutral Ports, have been taken and confiſcated.

The *Swedes* have alſo taken and confiſcated every Ship that has fallen into their Hands, though bound to or from their own Ports, under Pretence of the Want of proper Documents or Papers; contrary to the known Cuſtom, and Practice of Nations, and forced our Seamen into the Service of their Privateers.

His Majeſty's Miniſters, when at *Stockholm*, gave in a Specification of the Loſſes, and demanded Satisfaction; but the Practices of the Miniſters of *Sweden* here, againſt his Majeſty's Perſon and Government, occaſioned the Revocation of the King's Miniſter, and deprived the Sufferers of all Hopes of obtaining it there.

It is therefore humbly hoped, That the Honourable the Commons of *Great Britain* will take this their CASE into Conſideration, and afford them ſuch Relief, as ſhall in their great Wiſdom ſeem meet.